Dutch Ingratitude Exemplified:

BEING THE

Lord Chancellor ******'s SPEECH

IN A

Late REIGN.

My Lords, and you the Knights, Citizens, and Burgesses of the House of Commons.

THE King hath spoken so fully, so excellently well, and so like Himself, that you are not to expect much from me. There is not a Word in his Speech that hath not its full Weight; and I dare with Assurance say, will have its Effect with you. His Majesty had called you sooner, and this Affairs required it, but that he was resolved to give you all the Ease and Vacancy to your own private Concerns; and the People as much Respite from Payments and Taxes, as the Necessity of his Business, or their Preservation, would permit. And yet (which I cannot but here mention to you) by the Crafty Insinuations of some Ill-affected Persons, there have been spread strange and desperate Rumours, which your Meeting together this Day hath sufficiently proved both malicious and false.

His Majesty hath told you, that he is now engaged in an Important, very Expensive, and indeed, a *War* absolutely Necessary and Unavoidable. He hath referr'd you to his *Declaration*, where you will find the *Personal Indignities* by *Pillories* and *Medals*, and other *Publick Affronts*, his Majesty hath received from the *States*: their *Breach of Treaties*, both in the *Spiritous* and *East-India* Business; and at last they came to that Height of Insolence as to deny the Honour and Right of the *Flag*, tho' an undoubted Jewel of this Crown never to be parted with, and by them particularly owned in the late Treaty of *Breda*, and never controverted in any Age. And whilst the King first long expected, and then solemnly demanded *Satisfaction*, they disputed his Title to it in all the *Courts of Christendom*, and made great Offers to the *French* King if he would stand by them against us: But the most *Christian King* too well remembered what they did at *Munster*, contrary to so many Treaties and Solemn Engagements; and how dangerous a Neighbour they were to all *Crowned Heads*.

The *King* and his *Ministers* had here a Hard Time, and lay every Day under New *Obloquies*; sometimes they were represented as *Selling* all to *France* for Money to make this *War*; *Portsmouth*, *Plymouth*, and *Hull*, were to be given into the *French* Hands for Caution: The next Day News came that *France* and *Holland* were agreed; then the *Obloquy* was turned from *Treachery* to *Folly*: The Ministers were now *Fools*, that some Days before were *Villains*; and indeed the *Coffee-houses* were not to be blamed for their last Apprehensions, since if that *Conjunction* had taken Effect, then *England* had been in a far worse Case than now it is, and the War had been turned upon us. But both Kings knowing their Interests, resolved to join against them, who were the Common Enemies to all *Monarchies*, and I may say, especially to ours, their only Competitor *for Trade* [illegible], and who only feared in their [illegible]

and had swallowed so deep, that under all their present Distress and Danger they are so intoxicated with that vast *Ambition*, that they slight a *Treaty*, and refuse a *Cessation*.

All this you, and the whole Nation, saw before the last *War*; but it could not then be so well understood, or our Alliances so well made. But you judged aright, that at any rate, *Defiance of Carthage*, That *Government* was to be brought down; and therefore the *King* may well say to you, *'Tis your Act*. He took his *Measures from you*, and they were Safe and Right Ones; and he expects a suitable Assistance to so Necessary and Expensive an Action; which he has hitherto maintained at his own Charge, and was unwilling rather to [illegible] of *burden* the *Country*, until it came to an *Extremity*. And his Majesty commands me to tell you, that unless it be a *Certain Sum*, and *speedily raised*, it can never answer the Occasion.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

Expedition is the great Support of War or Peace. This *War* had never begun, nor had the *States* ever slighted the *King*, or ever refused him *Satisfaction*, neither had this *War* continued to this Days, or subsisted now, but that the *States* were deceived in their *Measures*, and apprehended his Majesty in that great Want of Money, that he must sit down under any *Affronts*, and was not able to begin or carry on a *War*. Nay, at this Day the *States* support themselves amongst their People by this only *Fallacy*, that they are assured of the *Temper* of *England*, and of the *Parliament*, and that you will not supply the King in this War; and that if they can hold out till your Meeting, they will have New Life, and may take New *Measures*. There are lately taken Two of their Principal *Agents*, with their Credentials and Instructions to this Purpose, who are now in the *Tower*, and shall be proceeded against according to the Law of Nations. But the King is sufficiently assured of *his People*, knows you better, and can never doubt his *Parliament*. This had not been mentioned, but to shew you of what Importance the *Frankness* and *Seasonableness* of this *Supply* is, as well as the *Fulness* of it. Let me say, the King has brought the *States* to that Condition, that your Hearty Conjunction at this Time in Supplying his Majesty, will make them never more formidable to Kings, or dangerous to *England*. And if after this you suffer them to get up, let this be remembred, The *States* of *Holland* are *England's* Eternal Enemy, both by *Interest* and *Inclination*.

In the next Place, to the Supply for the carrying on of the War, his Majesty recommends to you the [illegible] of his Revenue, that you gave the last Session did not near answer *your own Expectation*. Besides, another considerable Aid you designed his Majesty was *unfortunately lost in the Birth*; so that the King was forced, for the carrying on of his Affairs, much against his Will, to put a Stop to the [illegible] out of the Exchequer. He saw the Pro-

his People by great Interest, and the Difference through all his Business between *Ready Money* and *Orders*. This gave the King the Necessity of that Proceeding, to make use of his own Revenue, which hath been of so great Effect in this War. But though he hath put a Stop to the Trade and Gain of the *Bankers*, yet he would be unwilling to ruin them, and oppress so many *Families* as are concerned in those Debts: Besides, it were too disproportionable a Burthen upon many of his good Subjects. But neither the *Bankers* nor they have reason to complain, if you now take them into your Care, and they have paid them what was due to them when the Stop was made, with Six *per Cent.* Interest from that Time. The King is very much concerned both in *Honour* and *Interest* to see this done. And yet he desires you not to misstime it, but that it may have only the Second Place, and that you will First settle what you intend about the *Supply*.

His Majesty has so fully vindicated his *Declaration* from that Calumny concerning the *Papists*, that no reasonable Scruple can be made by any good Man: He has sufficiently justified it by the Time it was published in, and the Effects he hath had from it, and might have done it more from the Agreeableness of it to his own Natural Disposition, which no good *Englishman* can wish other than it is. He loves not Blood or rigorous Severities, but where *Mild* or *Gentle* Ways may be used by a *Wise Prince*, he is certain to chuse them. The *Church of England* and all good *Protestants* have reason to rejoice in such a *Head*, and such a *Defender*. His Majesty doth declare his Care and Concerns for the *Church*, and will maintain them in all their *Rights* and *Privileges*, equal, if not beyond, any of his Predecessors; he was Born and Bred up in it; it was that his Father Died for: We all know how great Temptations and Offers he resisted Abroad when he was in his lowest Condition; and he thinks it the Honour of his Reign that he hath been the *Restorer* of the *Church*; 'tis that he will ever maintain, and hopes to leave to Posterity in greater *Lustre* and upon surer *Grounds* than our Ancestors ever saw it: But his Majesty is not convinced that *Violent* Ways are the Interest of *Religion* or the *Church*.

There is One Thing more that I am Commanded to speak to you of, which is, The *Jealousie* that hath been frolishly spread Abroad of the Forces the King hath raised in this War, wherein the King hath *opened himself freely* to you, and confessed the Fault on the other Hand; for if this last Summer had not proved a Miracle of *Storms* and *Tempests*, such as secured their *East-India* Fleet, and protected their Sea-coast from a Descent, nothing but the true Reason (want of Money) could have justified the Defect in the Number of our Forces: 'Tis that his Majesty is providing for against the next Spring, having given out *Orders* for the raising of Seven or Eight Regiments more of Foot, under the Command of Persons of the greatest *Fortunes* and *Quality*. And I am earnestly to recommend to you, that in your Supplies you will take into your Consideration this necessary *Addition* of *Charge*.

And after his Majesties Conclusion of his Speech, let me *conclude*, nay, let us all *conclude*, with Blessing God and the King. Let us bless *God* that he hath given us such a *King* to be the *Repairer* of our *Breaches* both in *Church* and *State*, and the *Restorer of our Paths to dwell in*: That in the midst of War and Misery, which rages in our Neighbour Countries, our *Garners are full*, and *there is no complaining in our Streets*, and a Man can hardly *know* that there is a War. Let us bless *God* that hath given this King signally the Hearts of his *People*, and most particularly of this *Parliament*, who in their Affection and Loyalty to their Prince have exceeded *all* their Predecessors; a *Parliament*, with whom the King hath many Years lived with all the Caresses of a Happy Marriage. Has the King had a *Concern?* You have wedded it. Has his Majesty wanted *Supplies?* You have readily, cheerfully, and fully provided for them; you have relied upon the *Wisdom* and *Conduct* of his Majesty in all his Affairs, so that you have never attempted to exceed *your Bounds*, or to *impose* upon him, whilst the King on the other Hand hath made your Counsels the Foundations of all his Proceedings, and hath been so tender of you, that he hath upon his own *Revenue* and *Credit* endeavoured to support even *Foreign Wars*, that he might be least uneasie to you, or burdensome to his People. And let me say, that though this Marriage be according to *Moses's Law*, where the Husband can give a *Bill of Divorce*, put her away, and take *another*, yet I can assure you it is as impossible for the King to part with *this Parliament*, as it is for *you* to depart from that *Loyalty*, *Affection*, and *Dutiful Behaviour*, you have hitherto shewed towards him.

Let us bless the *King* for taking away all our *Fears*, and leaving no room for *Jealousies*; for those *Assurances* and *Promises* he hath made us. Let us bless *God* and the *King* that our *Religion* is Safe: that the *Church of* England is the Care of our Prince; that *Parliaments* are Safe; that our *Properties* and *Liberties* are Safe. What more hath a good *Englishman* to ask, but that *this King* may long Reign, and that this Triple Alliance of *King*, *Parliament*, and *People*, may never be dissolved?

POSTSCRIPT.

THIS Speech of my Lord *Shaftsbury's* was first Printed in the Year 1672-3; and the Tenour of it being so applicable to the Present Juncture, it was thought proper to Revive it; not only to give a Specimen of Foreign Insolence, but to demonstrate the Implacable Spirit of that Party who have ever been the worst Enemies to our Constitution.

London, Printed in the Year 1712.